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SUPERFUND RECORDS

Genome pioneer leaves impressive

Washington U.'s Waterston is departing for Seattle, but experts predict young, capable players will carry the Sequencing Center here into the future.

BY TINA HESMAN AND
VIRGINIA BALDWIN GILBERT
Of the Post-Dispatch

When Dr. Robert H. Waterston dissected a worm's DNA at Washington University, he helped birth the biggest biology project ever conceived.

With that science project — the sequencing of the human

genome — nearly complete, Waterston's legacy is assured.

But last week the university's reputation as a genetic research powerhouse became less certain.

Waterston, who founded the university's Genome Sequencing Center a decade ago and has brought in hundreds of millions of dollars in funding, told

genetics faculty members Tuesday that he would step down as chairman of the department here.

He plans to take over leadership of the Department of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle. His departure probably will take place at the end of the year.

Waterston, 58, declined to comment on his impending move and would not say whether any other scientists or research from the sequencing center would follow him to Seattle.

See Waterston, A10

Washington University Gen

Location: 4444 Forest Park Boulev

Affiliation: Part of School of Medic

Director: Robert H. Waterston

Co-directors: Richard Wilson; Elala

Employees: More than 200

Output: More than 5 million DNA

Milestones: 1996 — Yeast genome

percent of sequence; 1996-1999 —

ity of sequencing human genome;

tode, C. elegans; 2001 — Publish

— center contributed one-fourth of

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